

Teutons Show Fight on New Defence Line

Stiffening of Resistance May Mean German Retreat Is Ended

More Villages Captured by Allies

Attacking Armies Consolidate Ground to Meet Expected Counter Blow

London, March 21.—The French and British forces encountered to-day the most aggressive opposition to their advance on the hundred mile line between the Somme and the Aisne. While the French continued to drive ahead at nearly every point, and made great progress in certain stretches of territory, the resistance of the German rear guards was materially stiffer, and the enemy was found to be occupying some sections in strong force.

While there is still no answer to the question of whether the Germans intend to continue their retirement to their second reserve line of defence, the Franco-Belgian frontier, official reports from the battle front indicate that Hindenburg is about ready to make his stand along the Douai line, and that preparations have been completed for the blow which he expects will be decisive.

May Extend Retreat

The possibility of an extension of the German withdrawal to embrace the territory north of Arras, is hinted at in reports of German activity, similar to that which preceded the withdrawal from the Somme. Such a lengthening of the line of retreat might indicate a movement to the frontier line, from the Aisne to the Somme, but that is a possibility rather than a probability.

The most notable progress made by the British during the day was in the territory south and southeast of Arras, where the advance extended some miles at points, and resulted in the occupation of forty additional villages. Between Nurlu and Arras, east of Bapaume, the British swept ahead in face of growing opposition and considerable weather conditions. "The most important progress was made from their positions," Haig's report states.

The French made important progress on both sides of the Laon road, where ten villages were captured. The French troops at two points effected a passage of the Somme canal and drove the enemy back on the slopes of Clastres and Montescourt. North of Tergnier, captured by the French yesterday, the French ran up against a line of a lively character.

Seize Villages and Castle

British resistance also was encountered in the region north of Soissons and along the Ham-St. Quentin road. The report of General Nivelle states that the British captured the village of Clastres and the castle of Montescourt, which was a strategic point of the enemy's line. The French troops at two points effected a passage of the Somme canal and drove the enemy back on the slopes of Clastres and Montescourt. North of Tergnier, captured by the French yesterday, the French ran up against a line of a lively character.

From a strategic standpoint the most important movement made by Nivelle's army to-day was that which brought him up to Clastres and Montescourt, and the Somme Canal. These villages are nearer to the Hindenburg line than any other French position. The French troops at two points effected a passage of the Somme canal and drove the enemy back on the slopes of Clastres and Montescourt. North of Tergnier, captured by the French yesterday, the French ran up against a line of a lively character.

The persistent reports of British progress that the countryside for fifty miles behind the Hindenburg line is being devastated, coupled with the statement to-night that "most of the villages before our lines in the neighborhood of St. Quentin are in flames," appears to support the theory that the German retreat will be extended to the frontier.

Pursuit Conducted Carefully

Neither the French nor the British pressing ahead blindly. Every new position taken is thoroughly consolidated before the advance of the main line is continued. A counter blow in the enemy would find the Allied lines well prepared in powerful positions. And a counter blow is not impossible.

From Premier Ribot, who stated in the French Senate to-day that the German retirement was "only a prelude to further battles in which the enemy expects his last efforts," down to the Australian troops who reached the Hindenburg line after spending a day in the rain, there is a general agreement that the big show is ahead and that it will overshadow the mighty actions seen since the war began.

German Take All Food

Contrary to the German assertion that the inhabitants of each village were left with five days' provisions, the Germans are discovered to have taken everything edible from the villages abandoned, including stores of food, clothing, and other necessities. Additional evidence of the poisoning of streams and wells in the conquered lands is found in the German authorities for the first time in the people of that country is apparent from the statements that the operation is "carried out" "quite like peace operations," and from the unanimity of the German press laudations of Hindenburg, interspersed with intimations that the people may expect a big counter attack soon that may end in the capture of Tannenberg.

On the rest of the Western front

there was little activity during the day, except on the Verdun line, where the French penetrated an enemy trench north of Chambray Farm. "A number of German dead" were found in the position, Paris states.

Germans Have Invested \$256,760,000 in China

[From The Tribune Bureau]

Washington, March 21.—Chinese authorities, it was learned to-day, have estimated the total amount of German capital invested in enterprises in China at \$256,760,000. There are 244 German companies interested, and the number of German residents is estimated at 3,740.

Several mines have been opened in China by Germans, notably the coal mine in Fante, and the iron mine in Kiangcheng. The northern section of the Tientsin-Peking Railway and the Kiaoohau-Tsinanfu Railway are also German enterprises, the latter having a total mileage of 869. The Germans contracted to build other railways, but these two were the only lines completed.

Germans Boast Of Devastation In French Towns

Paris, March 21.—Devastation committed by the Germans in the territory which they have been forced to evacuate is taking on the character of savagery. As the retreat continues, evidence of the German barbarity grows. The latest act is the forcible abduction of young girls from the towns which the Anglo-French advance has liberated.

According to an official announcement fifty young women of Noyon, from fifteen to twenty-five years old, were forced to accompany the fleeing Germans, and this has been followed by many similar occurrences in other villages.

The announcement is published in the "Rhine and Westphalia Gazette," the supposed organ of Krupp, that "the French will count on their fingers how many cities and villages they have liberated; in reality they will hardly find a city or a village."

Regret is felt keenly that at the time of the beginning of the retreat on the Aisne, the Allied governments failed to send out solemn warning to Germany that every act of destruction contrary to the rules of The Hague convention would result not only in reparations but reprisals, and, if necessary, individual repression against the chiefs who ordered the ravages.

With clearer weather, the forward march of the Allies yesterday could have been continued under better conditions than the day before, but the French, still maintaining a vigorous contact with the enemy, were able to establish themselves solidly in new positions. They are now well prepared for any counter action which the Germans may attempt.

Tergnier, which was captured yesterday, is an extremely important railroad town on the Paris-Brussels line. This is a branch of the Amiens line which joins that of the Paris-Lille and the Laon-Rheims. In regard to interior communications, the Germans in quitting Tergnier have lost an important base.

The Chateau de Coucy, which the Germans destroyed during their retreat, was one of the remarkable monuments of military architecture of the Middle Ages. It was constructed between 1225 and 1230 by Enguerrand de Coucy. Standing on a rocky height, it dominates the valley of the Aisette.

Germans' Sixth War Loan Failing, Is Hague Report

London, March 21.—A Hague dispatch from the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company says:

"The German Ministry of Finance is organizing a great canvassing campaign for the sixth German war loan, which, in financial circles, is considered less successful than the previous loan, the subscriptions being one-third lower. Berlin and Frankfurt bankers openly state that the present failure shows the uselessness of launching a seventh loan."

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Nivelle Supreme In Army Control, Ribot Declares

New Premier Announces "Hands Off!" Policy in Conducting War

Will Force Victory

Urges France to Economize; Salutes Russia for Spreading Democracy

Paris, March 21.—The new ministry of Alexandre Ribot made its declaration to-day, pledging itself to carry on the war with all possible energy. The declaration, which was read in the Chamber of Deputies by Premier Ribot and in the Senate by Rene Viviani, Minister of Justice, opens with the affirmation:

"We are resolved to wage with the utmost vigor and to a victorious end the terrible war into which we were drawn by inexcusable aggression. We shall wage it not as our enemies, in a spirit of conquest and domination, but with the firm resolve to recover the provinces formerly wrested from us and obtain reparation and guarantees to prepare a durable peace, founded on respect for the rights and liberties of peoples."

The declaration refers to the retirement of the Germans on the French front, which it says "is without doubt a prelude to other battles in which the enemy will exhaust his last resources."

Nivelle to "the much debated question of chief command of the armies," the declaration says the answer is reached in the simplest manner, adding:

"The Cabinet, which is responsible for the political direction of the war, under the supervision of the Chamber, has a high hand in all that concerns organization and upkeep, but when it has chosen a commander in chief who must lead our troops to victory it leaves him complete liberty for strategic conception, preparation and direction of operations. The government is happy to be able to seize this occasion to affirm its absolute confidence in the commander in chief (General Nivelle) and in the other commanders of our armies."

It is pointed out in the declaration that the alliances of France are not solely founded on the interests of the country, but are animated by common ideals of liberty and fraternity, "which the French revolution had the immortal honor of proposing to the world and which, once they have become a reality everywhere in Europe, will be the best guarantee of that peace among the peoples an ardent wish for which was expressed recently by the President of the great American Republic, as well as one of the conditions of organization of a society of nations."

Salutes New Russia

Referring to the Russian revolution, the Cabinet salutes "the work of emancipation which is being accomplished among the noble people with which we have had an alliance dating from more than a quarter of a century ago." It expresses the wish that "the development of representative institutions, founded on popular sovereignty, may be achieved without violence, to serve as an example for other nations."

Regarding finances, the Cabinet emphasizes the necessity of restricting foreign payments as far as is possible without prejudicing the defense of the nation, and announces a forthcoming decree prohibiting importations which are not indispensable. It is pointed out that economies at home are necessary, "in order that public finances which have supported thus far the unprecedented effort required may hold out to the end and preserve their elasticity for the future."

The Premier announced that it would be necessary to impose new taxes and to make an added effort for the development of agricultural resources.

N. J. Local Option Bill Killed

Trenton, N. J., March 21.—A Senate bill, providing for modified local option, was killed by the lower house of the New Jersey Legislature to-night. An adverse report on the bill was concurred in by a vote of 33 to 17.

Germany Blocks Austrian Peace, Allies Believe

England Not Surprised That Wilson Is Working on Plan for Vienna

Entente Not Advised

Operations on Battlefield May Solve Problem—Russia Confuses Situation

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER
[By Cable to The Tribune]

London, March 21.—The report that President Wilson is at work on a plan for a separate peace with Austria caused considerable interest here, but no surprise.

It is unquestionably true that Austrians—and none more than their young Emperor—desire to get out of the war. But Germany, having drawn them into it, blocks the way out.

That Emperor Charles has asked President Wilson to use his good offices in perfecting a separate peace is not wholly surprising. But I can state authoritatively that the Allies have not been approached officially on the question up to the present time.

The possibility of a separate peace now raises so many important questions that before it can become an accomplished fact operations on the battlefields are likely to alter materially the entire situation.

Might Use Austria as Wedge

If Austria sues for a separate peace it means that Emperor Charles is supported and not opposed by the Kaiser; it means that the German government considers Austria more valuable out of the war than in it, and that Germany is using Austria as a wedge to open the doors to peace.

Political and economic unrest in Austria-Hungary hurried the visit of Bethmann-Hollweg to Vienna, referred to in these dispatches two days ago. This seems to lend strength to the reports that big developments in the Central Powers are sure to come within a short time.

The revolution and the new democracy in Russia are largely responsible for the unsettled conditions. No one knows how far-reaching the effect of Russia's reorganization on the course of the war may be.

The Russian situation remains confused. Russia's greatest wish is still unable to view her future calmly.

A Disturbing Element.

But the one element in the Russian situation disturbing to the rulers of the Central Powers, a factor greater even than the potential military power of the country, is the effect which the revolution is having upon their own peoples.

If the rulers of Germany, Austria and Bulgaria would avert revolutions in their own lands, they must listen to the will of the people. If revolution does come in these countries it will not be organized as skillfully as it was in Russia, but it will be ten times bloodier.

In official quarters I find that the question of a separate peace with Austria is viewed as a possibility, but hardly a probability, inasmuch as the whole problem is likely to be solved before diplomatic negotiations could be ended.

Tuscany Arrives From U-Boat Zone

Anchor Liner Followed by Mysterious Craft When Near New York

The Anchor liner Tuscany arrived late yesterday evening, having passed safely through the submarine danger zone from Glasgow and Liverpool.

A mysterious vessel was sighted a day out from New York. It was painted two crow's nests on the fore truck, and, despite the appearance of a harmless tramp, showed great speed. All day the vessel followed the Tuscany, but did not speak her, and when night fell headed out to sea. Passengers believed that the vessel was a German raider, but officers of the Tuscany stated that it was one of a number of British patrol boats on duty off the Atlantic coast.

Among the six first class passengers of the Tuscany was Lieutenant Joseph Smith, of Pasadena, Cal., who at the beginning of the war enlisted in the Royal Scots Guards. He said that he was on leave and intended visiting his mother in California.

Irwin Chase, of Avondale, N. J., who until a few months ago served on a British submarine chaser in the North Sea, returned as one of the Tuscany's crew. He said that light patrol boats similar to those being built by the United States navy had been found highly effective by the British navy in chasing U-boats. The craft, he said, made nearly one-half of all the captures of German undersea craft.

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Holland May Bar U. S. Armed Ships

Hague Also Standing By Refusal to Admit British Vessels with Guns

London, March 21.—A dispatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Amsterdam says:

"It is understood that the Dutch government has intimated that it is not prepared to allow armed American merchantmen in Dutch harbors. According to the view in well informed circles, the Dutch reply to representations arising out of the British steamer Princess Melita case will be unsatisfactory from the Entente standpoint."

The steamer Princess Melita arrived at the Hook of Holland during the evening of March 5, but, being armed, was ordered to depart forthwith, according to a dispatch to London quoting the Dutch Naval Department as authority. The steamer sailed, but returned the next morning and was permitted to disembark a sick passenger and take on drinking water. A later dispatch from London said that the British government would insist on defensively armed ships being permitted to enter Dutch ports.

Swiss Not to Lack Food

France Moves to Safeguard Imports of Provisions

Paris, March 21.—The French government is making a special effort to see that food importations into Switzerland shall not be interfered with as long as they are applied solely to the needs of the Swiss. Denys Cochin, Minister of Blockade in Premier Briand's Cabinet, has been in Bern recently going over the entire Swiss food question.

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For Women and Misses

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Prices \$5 to \$15

And in extra sizes from \$6 to \$16

In a Special Presentation Today Over One Thousand Charming \$5.85 Wonder Hats

Featured are the most becoming styles seen on fashionably dressed women at the leading hotels of Paris and New York, together with a rare assembly of models by leading American modistes.

Colored Hats, Solid Black Hats, and Leghorn Hats artistically trimmed with Flowers, Wings and Burnt Feather Novelties

are represented in a wonderful range of large and small effects, emphasizing with unusual vigor that Saks' \$5.85 Wonder Hats are the greatest values ever offered in New York City.

Of Unusual Importance Today

Women's Spring Coats at \$19.50

An important offering of the most attractive models introduced this season, in semi-fitted, belted and straight line effects, suitable for touring, dress, and general wear. Half-lined or lined throughout with Peau de Cygne or Pussy Willow Silk.

Fashioned of Wool Jersey, Taffeta, Poiret Twill, Men's Wear Serge, Gabardine, Covert Cloth and Imported Waterproof Tweeds, with collars and cuffs in silk or self fabric. Sizes 34 to 44.

Beginning today—An

Important Sale of Sterling Silver Mesh Bags at \$15

Reduced from \$18.50 and \$22.50

Attractive 5½ and 6½ inch narrow frame bags with fine reversible soldered mesh skirt. Main Floor.

We shall introduce today Ten New Models in

Fashionable Coat Dresses for Women at \$25

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Fashioned of Poiret Twill, Tricotine, Covert Cloth, Gabardine and Men's Wear Serge, featuring barrel pockets and colored embroidery.

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Taffeta \$35 Serge \$25 Poiret Twill \$35

This particular showing of the NEW in women's suits for Spring proves conclusively that the place to find a suit at the right price is at Saks.

The models are in plain tailored and braid bound effects, with single breasted, smart blazer, straight line and belted coats, displaying vestees of silk or pique and embroideries in contrasting color.

THE MATERIALS:

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Delightful pleated, tailored and flare models, authentic copies of the very latest imported creations. Fashioned of Plaid, Striped and Checked Velours, Striped and Plaid Worsteds, Wool Jersey, Navy or Black Men's Wear Serge, Gabardine and Wool Poplin. Waistbands to 36.

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